

Hawaii MARINE

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April 11, 2003

Regime's collapse is evident

Linda D. Kozaryn
*American Forces
Press Service*

WASHINGTON — The collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime in Baghdad is evident, yet there may still be hard fighting ahead, said Vice President Richard Cheney said Wednesday.

"Until this war is fully won, we cannot be overconfident in our position, and we must not underestimate the desperation of whatever forces remain loyal to the dictator," Vice President Cheney said in his address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Saddam's forces have used hospitals, schools and mosques for military operations, he explained. They've tortured and executed prisoners of war and forced women and children to serve as human shields.

They've transported death squads in ambulances, fought in civilian clothes, feigned surrender and opened fire on our forces, and shot civilians who welcomed coalition troops, he continued.

"In dealing with such an enemy, we must expect vicious tactics until the regime's final breath," he said. "The hardest combat



Sgt Paul L. Anstine III

AREA OF OPERATION, IRAQ — A destroyed T-55 tank burns north of the An Nu'maniyah bridge along Highway 27. It was hit by Marines in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the multinational coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraqi's weapons of mass destruction and end the regime of Saddam Hussein. See page A-4, for more on Operation Iraqi Freedom.

could still be ahead of us. Only the outcome can be predicted with certainty. Iraq will be disarmed of its weapons of mass destruction. The regime will end, and the Iraqi people

will be free."

Removing the terror regime from Iraq, he stressed, will send a clear message to all terrorist groups.

"The United States and

our coalition partners are showing that we have the capacity and the will to wage war on terror and to win decisively," said Vice President Cheney.

In Baghdad, he said,

people are celebrating in the streets, and remaining pockets of regime forces are far less effective at putting up any resistance.

See **REGIME**, A-8

Kailua Beach comes clean

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

KAILUA — The beach was a beautiful place to spend time, except for the fact that large quantities of trash were scattered all along the shore.

Now the trash is gone, and the beach looks much cleaner.

Marines from 1st Bn., 12th Marine Regiment; Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii; and several base residents gathered here Sunday to participate in the fourth annual "Kokua at Kailua" beach cleanup.

The cleanup started at 9 a.m. and lasted until 11 a.m., and the entire front of the beach was cleared of accrued debris.

During the cleanup, volunteers filled more than 100 large-size trash bags with cigarette butts, diapers, aluminum and glass bottles, and a variety of trash that had accumulated.

Organizers properly disposed of the trash at a local landfill, and items

See **BEACH**, A-5

PACOM limits travel, due to SARS epidemic

U.S. Pacific Command
Press Release

CAMP H.M. SMITH — The U.S. Pacific Command has issued a temporary limitation on all but approved mission-essential travel by military personnel to all areas of China and Hong Kong.

The order is consistent with health and travel advisories issued by the Center for Disease Control and the U.S. State Department. This action, which also applies to U.S. Navy ship visits to Hong Kong, is a prudent measure to protect U.S. service members from the threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS.

This is a temporary travel limitation, and CINCPAC will continue to monitor the situation closely and to coordinate with the appropriate health organizations and the State Department. The limitation will be updated and adjusted as necessary.

Trespassers prosecuted in court

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

When individuals are barred from MCB Hawaii, the choice is simple — stay off or be prosecuted in a federal court.

The Special Assistant United States Attorney Program allows military attorneys to prosecute civilians who commit offenses on MCB Hawaii in federal court, per an agreement executed between the Department of Justice

and the Department of Defense.

When a service member is separated with a less than honorable discharge, he or she is then barred from base. If caught on base again, the individual is brought up on federal charges and appears in a federal court.

The procedure also applies to civilians barred from the installation.

"Besides barred individuals trespassing on base, we also have a problem with people bringing

drugs on MCB Hawaii and with DUIs [driving under the influence]," said Maj. Michael Mori, military justice officer at MCB Hawaii. "If you bring drugs on base, it is a mandatory \$1,000 fine. The agreement made between the DoD and the DoJ allows us to prosecute offenders in a civilian court."

Individuals committing offenses who are under the age of 18 are processed through the state's family court.

Recently, a Marine who was separated from the Marine Corps with an other than honorable discharge was barred from base, but returned. He was apprehended and charged with criminal trespassing in a federal court. The Marine received both a \$250 fine and a federal conviction.

"We want to make the message clear," said Mori. "If you are barred from base, do not come back. We do not tolerate criminal violations here."

EAS symposium dignitaries tour K-Bay

Cpl. Jason E. Miller
Press Chief

More than 20 foreign delegates from Eastern Asian countries came

aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, April 3, as part of a military tour in support of the Symposium on East Asia Security Humanitarian

Assistance.

Visitors to the base included delegates from countries such as Australia, China, Cambodia, Thailand,

Mongolia and Russia, among others, simply to get a view of the Marine Corps' capabilities.

While aboard the installation, dignitaries received a command brief, to get things started on the right foot and for a better understanding of MCB Hawaii's role in the Pacific Theater. The tour continued on with static displays at the flight line to view air assets.

The delegates made a visit to Landing Zone Boondocker where they were met by more than 50 members of the 3rd Marine Regiment, who awaited with some light and heavy equipment for a static display.

The 3/3 Marines carefully explained each piece

of machinery or weaponry and its role in combat to the onlookers. Most seemed interested in the big guns such as the 155mm Howitzer Cannon and the 81 mm mortar.

Marines stood ready to answer any questions from the delegates.

Before finishing up their tour, the dignitaries enjoyed some fine Marine dining, seating themselves under a tent with 3rd Marine Regiment leathernecks who were eating Meals Ready to Eat and drinking from a water bull.

The Pacific tour of military bases next takes the Eastern Asian Security Symposium dignitaries to bases on the island of Okinawa, Japan.



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

Visiting dignitaries enjoyed some fine cuisine when they joined 3rd Marine Regiment leathernecks for some Meals Ready to Eat.

MCBH News Briefs

CONGRESSMAN ABERCROMBIE TO SPEAK AT PWM LECTURE
Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series 2-03 will feature Congressman Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii’s 1st District on April 24 at 7 p.m. at the base theater.
Designed to intellectually challenge attendees, this officer professional military education lecture is open to ranks E-6 and above, their spouses, GS-7 and above , and local community leaders.

BASE CHAPEL POSTS SERVICES
In addition to its regularly scheduled services, the Base Chapel aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will now be open Monday - Friday, with private prayer available Wednesdays and Thursdays until 8 p.m. An all-faith service will be held every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The community is also invited to attend the following:

- Saturday*
Roman Catholic Mass at 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Palm Sunday*
Roman Catholic Mass at 9:30 a.m.
Protestant Worship at 8 and 11 a.m.
- Thursday, Holy Thursday*
Roman Catholic Mass at 5 p.m.
Protestant Worship at 7 p.m.
- April 18, Good Friday*
Stations of the Cross at 11:45 a.m.
Solemn Good Friday Service at 5 p.m.
Protestant Service at 7 p.m.
- April 19, Holy Saturday*
Roman Catholic Vigil Mass at 5 p.m.
- April 20, Easter Sunday*
Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. at Rifle Range
Roman Catholic Mass at 9:30 a.m.
Protestant Services at 8 and 11 a.m.

LUNCHEON TO HONOR WORKERS
The 2003 Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon will be held May 7 at 11 a.m. in the Hawaii Ballroom of the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. The event will spotlight the federal community and recognize exceptional federal employees.
The cost, including tax and gratuity, is \$26 to attend, and bus transportation will be available. Purchase tickets by April 22, in Room 6 of Bldg. 216.
Call Mr. McTee at 257-8807 for more information.

Hawaii MARINE

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IN THE CG’s MAIL BOX

BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

Dear Brig. Gen. McAbee,

First, I would like to applaud you on the creation of the new recreation trail running behind the new housing area near the back gate. Since its construction, I have used it quite regularly. It is a perfect place away from traffic to run, and for children to ride bikes.

I am a spouse of a Marine who has spent 10 of the past 11 months deployed. Because of this, I push a double-jogging stroller on my daily runs. Although this new trail is wonderful, it is not long enough to get a full workout.

I recently read your article on reflective gear, where it stated that those doing physical training needed to stay on sidewalks or on the far left side of the road. This is possible for all except those who are pushing strollers, etc.

On Harris Road, there is a sidewalk. But, at every street, I have to stop and lift the jogger over the curb, because there are no ramps. Also, the grassy areas alongside the roads are filled with weeds that have caused numerous flat tires.

I am fully aware that safety is the main concern. Therefore, I suggest that paved running trails be placed in all possible areas: Harris, behind the commissary and Reed and Daly are a few examples — so that those who do physical training in our community have a safe and easily

accessible place to do so.

Thank you,
Aubrianne Perry

Dear Mrs. Perry,

I have been asked by the commanding general to research and respond to your e-mail since your recommendation and concerns fall within my staff responsibilities.

He appreciates that you’ve taken the time to participate in the CG Mail program.

I applaud your dedication to physical fitness. The jogging path you mentioned, currently in our new Pa Honua housing area, is part of a comprehensive plan to extend such paths throughout MCB Hawaii’s housing areas.

The path is 1-mile long and runs along the back area, connecting Mokapu Boulevard to Pennsylvania Avenue.

The next phase will be constructed as part of our next family housing replacement project that replaces an additional 212 homes. That path, which is scheduled for completion in April 2005, will be 1.5-miles long and will consist of new 6-foot wide sidewalks, which will connect to the termination point of the existing path.

As we continue to replace our older housing areas through the end

of the decade, that construction will also include jogging trails. These trails will interconnect, adding to the overall length of our trail system.

The vision of MCB Hawaii is to provide a jogging trail accessible to residents, where families can be safe and take part in physical fitness programs or just take leisurely walks away from the vehicle traffic. These sidewalks will also have hand-capped-accessible ramps, which will eliminate the need for you to stop and lift your stroller.

The base has requested funding to modify our existing older sidewalks with ramps, but with all the housing areas scheduled for replacement within the next few years, it is unlikely that this initiative will be funded.

In addition to the above initiatives, we are assessing the feasibility of constructing a continuous perimeter fitness path around the base. You will be hearing more on this subject in future issues of the *Hawaii Marine*

We appreciate your thoughtful comments. If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact Mr. Freeland at 257-2676. I hope this answers your questions and thank you for taking the time to participate in the CG Mail program.

Mr. Kent Murata
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4

(Editor’s Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)
The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn’t be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we should be doing better?
Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address so that staff may respond.
For more information about how to send C.G. Mail, see the MCB Hawaii C.G. Mail page at www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm.

Shoplifters impact all MCX patrons; thieves can expect stiff penalties

Lance Cpl.
Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

How does a criminal record that will follow you for the rest of you life, along with a stiff fine, sound?

If it doesn’t sound like something all too pleasant, then shoplifting is not a smart choice to make.

Since February of 2002, shoplifting at Marine Corps retail stores aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is estimated to be more than \$120,000.

“Although we have been fortunate to have annual losses well within the Marine Corps standard, we have seen an increase in shoplifting apprehensions over the last two years,” said Ken Lum, director of Management and Control Security. “Stealing from the Marine Corps Exchange is like stealing from your-

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Security personnel monitor activities on several high tech camera screens and keep a watchful eye for shoplifters at the Marine Corps Exchange.

self,” said Lum. “This means MCCS [Marine Corps Community Services] has less money available to put back into quality of life programs.

“Shoplifters also risk criminal prosecution, loss of shopping privileges at all

many high tech security cameras and sensor devices have been placed throughout the exchange. This year alone, the cameras have taped 15 individuals attempting to steal merchandise, who were prosecuted criminally.

“Our cameras are very effective and state-of-the-art,” said Lum. “They can see what is going on all over the stores, and they monitor the activity at the registers.

“The cameras have the ability to read the price on each item, to ensure that the correct amount is being paid.

“We hope that when the word gets out that we are fining and prosecuting shoplifters, people might decide against shoplifting,” Lum continued. “The bottom line is, we all suffer a loss when someone shoplifts.”

Sergeants and below who dare to become Combat Correspondents and would pride themselves on telling the Marine Corps story can seize the opportunity with a lateral move into the 4341 occupational field. Contact Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson, press chief at the Public Affairs Office, at 257-8840, for more information.



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Sergeant Jaymol Davis, a bulk fuel specialist with CSSG-3, climbs over a bar at the obstacle course. The group’s training will better prepare the Marines for their deployment to Cobra Gold ‘03 in Thailand.

CSSG-3 aces O’Course obstacles

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

When suspended in the air, 40 feet above the ground, it might not be a good idea to look down. Yet, Marines in Engineer Co., Combat Service Support Group 3, aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, had no choice when they spent the day at the installation’s obstacle course April 1.

The company took advantage of its opportunity to squeeze in more training before an upcoming deployment.

Marines first mastered, the 40-foot-high rappel tower. Heart-pounding drills required Marines to strap a rope around their waist and lean off the edge of the tower before descending. The maneuvers were quite a rush for those who participated.

“This exercise was intended to bring the differ-



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

Lance Cpl. Matt Warwick, a motor transport operator with CSSG-3, takes the first few steps in his descent down a 40-foot rappel tower during training in preparation for Cobra Gold ‘03.

ent companies from CSSG-3 together and let them get acquainted before we go on the Cobra Gold exercise,” said Capt. Travis Gaines, commanding officer of Engineering Co. We need to do this because we will be spending a lot of time together at Cobra Gold.”

After climbing down the rappel tower, the CSSG-3 warriors moved

on to the O’Course, a variety of bars and logs that test the ability of Marines to use teamwork and speed when navigating the obstacles.

A 20-foot-high rope climb beckoned devil dogs at the end of the challenging course.

“This was a motivating exercise,” said Staff Sgt. Caleb Eames, nuclear, biological and chemical in-

structor for CSSG-3. “We got a chance to work together and have a good time doing it. We are ready for Cobra Gold.”

After the rappel tower and obstacle course, one challenge remained. The leadership reaction course tested fire team capability with a variety of combat situations, which required skill, speed and quick thinking, along with teamwork and ingenuity.

In one situation, fire teams determined how to cross a flooding river on a destroyed bridge — the only route to deliver ammunition and supplies to a company in dire need of the items. Fire teams discovered that their biggest concern would be that the bridge was loaded with explosives. One misplaced step could prove to be fatal.

“We all got a chance to work together and challenge ourselves,” said Eames.

NEO tests Army, Marine interoperability

Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — At any given moment, Americans in third world countries can be in dangerous situations and need to be evacuated immediately.

Evacuating them might not be easy. They could be in an area under enemy fire and have very little time to escape.

Marines from Combat Service Support Group 3, along with the Army’s 524th Corps Support Bn. from Schofield Barracks, conducted noncombatant evacuation operation exercises here, March 12 - 13, to train for such a scenario.

During the NEO, role players from the Army and the Air Force set the scene. Americans in a third world country needed to be evacuated with foreign nationals.

Although the mission was to evacuate the role players, the Army and



Spc. Stephanie Carl

A 25th MP Bn. officer from Schofield Barracks wrestles a violent noncombatant to the ground at the ECC during a joint NEO mission with Marines and airmen.

the Marines also learned how to link the NEO tracking system between the two services and establish an evacuation control center.

“Everybody was willing to work

together,” said 1st Lt. Eric Demskey, executive officer, Transportation Co. “We had been interested in training together for Cobra Gold, because we might have to conduct live missions together one day. We wanted to build a relationship amongst ourselves.”

After establishing the evacuation control center with six stations, a receiving area, search station, administrative processing station, and an embarkation and detention section, 10 helicopters stood by to bring the role players to the newly formed ECC.

“This was a difficult mission because the role players gave us a lot of different scenarios, which involved quick thinking regarding the procedures they had to follow,” said Demskey. “We were able to prepare and get an idea of what to expect for Cobra Gold, and we learned how important it is to be able to make split-second decisions.”

WORD ON THE STREET

“What do you believe are the top three issues confronting the United States?”



"...The war in Iraq, our issues with Korea and the need for homeland security."

Cpl. Rickey Fleming

Consolidation memorandum report clerk
1st Radio Bn.,
Marine Forces Pacific



"I think the most important is the Iraqi war. Second is the economic struggle, then our war on terrorism."

Maj. Scott Clark

Air officer, G-3
Headquarters Bn.,
MCB Hawaii



"The war on Iraq, the war on terrorism and our diplomatic issues with China are very important."

Senior Chief Petty Officer Pierre Laporte

Assistant OIC
Mobile Maintenance Facility, MAG-24



"Our biggest issue is world peace. After that I would say the national economy, as a whole, and the war on drugs."

Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan Barkley

SACO
Headquarters Bn.,
MCB Hawaii



"...The war in Iraq, our struggling economy and the fact that North Korea has nuclear weapons."

Capt. Henry Hurt

Counterterrorism liaison officer
U.S. Embassy,
Manila



COURTS MARTIAL

(Editor’s Note: The Legal Services Center, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, sent notification to the commanding officers of the following Marines of punishment awarded in the following courts martial.)

General Courts Martial

•A staff sergeant with 1st Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, was found guilty of two counts of indecent assault and one count of drunk

and disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 150 days and reduction to pay grade E-1.

•A lance corporal with 1/3 was found guilty of three counts of transporting obscene materials. He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 10 months and reduction to pay grade of E-1.

Iraqi family risks it all to save American POW

Sgt. Joseph R. Chenelly
I Marine Expeditionary Force

MARINE COMBAT HEAD-QUARTERS, Iraq — New heroes have surfaced in the rescue of U.S. Army Private First Class Jessica Lynch.

Under the watchful eyes of more than 40 murderous gunmen, the 19-year-old supply clerk lay in Saddam Hussein Hospital suffering from several wounds and broken bones.

As her captors discussed amputating her leg, an Iraqi man leaned to her ear and whispered, “Don’t worry.”

Lynch replied with a warm smile.

The man was already working with U.S. Marines to gain the critical information needed to rescue one of the first American prisoners of war in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Just a day earlier, the lawyer from An Nasiryah had walked 10 kilometers to inform American forces he knew where Lynch was being held.

The shocked Marines asked Mohammad to return to the hospital and note certain things. He was tasked with counting the guards and documenting the hospital’s layout. Knowing the risk, he agreed to help the young woman he had seen only once.

“I came to the hospital to visit my wife,” said the Iraqi man whose wife was a nurse. “I could see much more security than normal.”

The man who, for his protection will only be identified as Mohammad, asked one of the doctors about the increased security.

“He told me there was a woman American soldier there.”

Together, the two went to see her. Peering through the room’s window, Mohammad saw a sight he claims will stay with him forever. An Iraqi colonel slapped the soldier who had been captured after a fierce firefight, March 23.

“My heart stopped,” he said in a soft tone. “I knew then I must help her be saved. I decided I must go to tell the Americans.”

Just days earlier, Mohammad saw a woman’s body dragged through his neighborhood. He said “the animals” were punishing the woman for waving at a coalition helicopter. The brutal demonstration failed to deter him from going to the Marines.

The same day he first saw Lynch, he located a Marine checkpoint. Worried he’d be mistaken for an attacker in civilian clothes, he approached the Marines with his hands high above his head.

“[A Marine sentry] asked, ‘what you want?’” Mohammad said. “I want to help you. I want to tell you important information — about Jessica!”

After talking with the Marines, he returned to the hospital to gather information.

“I went to see the security,” he said. “I watched where they stood, where they sat, where they ate and when they slept.”

While he observed Saddam’s henchmen, the

notorious regime death squad paid Mohammad’s home an unexpected visit. His wife and 6-year-old daughter fled to near-by family. Many of his personal belongings, including his car, were seized.

“I am not worried for myself,” he said. “Security in Iraq [that is still] loyal to Saddam will kill my wife. They will kill my [child].”

Meanwhile, Mohammad accompanied his friend into Lynch’s tightly guarded room. She was covered up to her chin by a white blanket. Her head was bandaged. A wound on the right leg was in bad condition.

“The doctors wanted to cut her leg off.” “My friend and I

decided we would stop it.”

Creating numerous diversions, they managed to delay the surgery long enough.

“She would have died if they tried it,” he said.

Mohammad walked through battles in the city streets for two straight days to get to back to the hospital. His main mission was to watch the guards, but each morning he attempted to keep Lynch’s spirits strong with a “good morning” in English.

He said she was brave throughout the ordeal.

When reporting back to the Marines on March 30, he brought five different maps he and his wife made. He was able to point to the exact room the

captured soldier was being held in. He also handed over the security layout, reaction plan and times that shift changes occurred.

He had counted 41 bad guys and determined a helicopter could land on the hospital’s roof. It was just the information the Marines needed.

American forces conducted a nighttime raid April 1. Lynch was safely rescued. She has since been transported to a medical facility in Germany.

Mohammad and his family are now in a secure location and have been granted refugee status. He doesn’t feel safe in An Nasryah, but he hopes things will improve as the war against

the regime advances.

“Iraq is not a safe place while Saddam Hussein is in power,” Mohammad said. “He kills the Iraqi people whenever he wants. I believe the Americans will bring peace and security to the people of Iraq.”

Mohammad’s wife said she wants to volunteer to help injured or sick American forces in the future.

“America came here to help us,” he said. “The Marines are brave men. They have been gentle with the Iraqi people. They are taking out Saddam Hussein. For that, we are very grateful.”

Mohammad and his family hope to meet Lynch in the future.

Senate recognizes military’s role in education

Hawaii legislature praises efforts of the Joint Venture Education Forum in public schools here

Cpl. Luis R. Agostini
Marine Forces Pacific

HONOLULU — The commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Bn., Marine Forces Pacific, Col. Bruce Grathwohl, represented the Marine Corps during a state senate recognition ceremony at the Hawaii State Capitol Tuesday morning.

Sponsored by Hawaii State Sen. Norman Sakamoto, D-Honolulu, the ceremony recog-

nized each military branch for contributions to Hawaii’s public schools.

“Colonel Grathwohl is an energetic force in the United States Marine Corps’ involvement in the Joint Venture Education Forum,” said Sakamoto. “He was personally involved in the military’s school partnerships and discussed ways Marines could be of service.”

More than 21,000 military family members are enrolled in Hawaii public schools.

As part of the JVEF, each service participates in the mission of easing interaction between

the military community and the Hawaii Department of Education.

They do this to enhance and maintain communication on education concerns, and develop educational support for all children.

The Joint Venture Education Forum’s goals include maintaining a long-term partnership between the educational and military communities, through communication as well as in the sharing of ideas and information, and by pursuing excellence in education and changing perceptions.



GRATHWOHL

Some of the programs in which the Marine Corps participated included aiding the purchase of \$20 textbooks for children in kindergarten through third grade, which benefited more than 14,000 students, as well as supporting the development of state-of-the-art technology centers and computer labs, and purchasing 20 portable, wireless computers.

Hawaii-based Marine Corps units participate in more than 20 school district programs across the island of Oahu.

“It’s a great way for the Marine Corps to show support,” said Grathwohl. “It gives us an opportunity to give back to the community that has supported us for so many years.”

BEACH, From A-1

that could be recycled were bagged separately and sent to a recycling center.

“The Marines had a good time and were motivated to help out in the community,” said Master Sgt. Juan Rivera, operations chief with G-3. “The fact that some Marines showed up wearing their camouflage utilities made a great impression.”

Besides the Marines being present, family members and children of all ages dedicated their weekend morning to make the beach a cleaner place to spend time.

“I wish we could do this more than once a year because the Marines felt really good about giving back to the community in a positive way,” said Rivera.

Skinny Dragons fair lays safety on the line

Lt. j.g. Josh Calloway
Patrol Squadron 4

Upon entering MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay’s Hangar 104, any outside observer could see that March 17 was not an ordinary day for Patrol Squadron 4.

The hangar was teeming with Sailors, motorcycles and all terrain vehicles for the squadron’s Safety departments were conducting an all hands Safety Fair.

Periodically, naval aviation squadrons conduct safety awareness training, or safety standdowns, to remind personnel of the obvious hazards involved in conducting flight operations. Statistically, however, Sailors are far more likely to be injured off-duty than on-duty.

The Safety Fair stressed that operational readiness and safety go hand in hand. Considering the fact that all Sailors are Navy assets, the Safety department also emphasized that anything diminishing the squadron’s ability to complete its mission brings down overall readiness, which



PH1 Richard Estep

A booth at the VP-4 Safety Fair simulated the effects of alcohol while sober. Squadron personnel discovered that drunk driving is not a laughing matter.

includes off-duty activities that may cause personal injury or loss of life.

Each squadron work center chose a safety-related topic and set up a booth for display. The squadron’s Aviation Electrician

work center displayed an aircraft battery, which it used to demonstrate the hazards associated with battery acids.

The Line work center collected debris from the flight line and warned the squadron of the

damage and expense these “small things” can cause to aircraft engines. The Safety Fair also included demonstrations of the various types of firefighting equipment used by squadron personnel.

For the aircrew, the Aviation Live Support Systems work center inflated an aircraft emergency life raft and demonstrated its use and contents. Aviation Aircrew Survival personnel opened up one of the new replacement survival vests and provided training on the extra versatility the gear provides.

Aviation Medicine presented information about the chemical and biological hazards the squadron could face during its upcoming deployment. In addition, the corpsmen showed slides outlining background and procedures when giving immunizations to personnel.

One of the more popular displays was the drunk driving booth, set up by Safety. There, Sailors discovered the effects of alcohol though they were still sober. They drove a small go-cart vehicle through an obstacle

course, then attempted to walk a straight line while wearing special goggles simulating the affects of alcohol.

Additional booths included motorcycle, ATV, bicycle and physical fitness safety.

After the fair, several squadron personnel discussed the ingenuity of the event.

“It was an eye-opening display of squadron’s safety techniques,” said pilot Lt. j.g. Jason Edwards, a VP-4 pilot.

“It was a nice change from the usual classroom-style stand-down,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica Dussold, an information systems technician. “I learned a lot from the displays.”

Within minutes of the fair’s completion, the bustling hangar bay was cleaned up and back to business for the Skinny Dragons.

Patrol Squadron 4 has now completed its 31st year of mishap-free flying, with more than 205,000 mishap-free flight hours to date.

The impressive record proves that thoughts of safety stay fresh on the minds of Skinny Dragons personnel.

QUOTABLE: Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving to words evidence of the fact.

— George Eliot

GUNG-HO



= SALUTES =

Marine Corps Air Facility

Promotions

Corporal Ian T. Voisine

Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Petty Officer 1st Class

Matthew W. Dinic

Petty Officer 1st Class

Kenneth N. Patterson

Petty Officer 2nd Class

Ronald J. Bradbury

Petty Officer 2nd Class

Vleet C. Roberts

Certificate of Commendation

Sergeant Gerry M. Schiller

Corporal Scott J. Momper

Lance Corporal Brian T. Meyer

Meritorious Mast

Corporal Edward Koh

VP-4 captures the Battle ‘E’ award

Lt. j.g. Argus Cunningham

Patrol Squadron 4

Commander Naval Air Forces has announced that Patrol Squadron 4 is the winner of the distinguished ComNavAir Pacific Battle Efficiency “E” award for excellence in Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aviation for calendar year 2002.

The coveted award recognizes the achievement of the highest levels of

performance in battle efficiency and mission readiness. The honor marks the third Battle “E” awarded to the “Skinny Dragons” in the last five years, continuing a high standard of excellence and mission success.

A series of accomplishments helped VP-4 secure the award. The squadron flew more than 9,200 hours and 1,300 missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Southern Watch. Also during

the same period, VP-4 successfully completed more than 400 combat sorties over Afghanistan, despite the challenges of operating and maintaining 10 aircraft and conducting around-the-clock missions during their six-month deployment.

Rear Adm. Anthony Winns, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Pacific, said VP-4 has set the pace for the rest of the MPRA community with its historic deployment.

MCBH nominates six for federal excellence

Public Affairs Office

Press Release

Federal Government Awards Luncheon, May 7 in Waikiki.

Five MCB Hawaii personnel will be recognized at the 2003 Excellence in

Major Jonathan S. Claucherty of G-3; Master Sgt. Jerry L. Webb of

Marine Corps Community Services; Lynn Docktor of G-1; Mary Sorenson of the Temporary Lodging Allowance office; and Richard Narvaez of G-6

will vie for top honors in various categories.

The Facilities Division at Camp H. M. Smith will compete in the organizational excellence category.

REGIME, From A-1

In southern Iraq, British forces are securing Basra, Iraq's second-largest city. Senior religious leaders throughout the country are urging followers to support the coalition " — another sure sign that Saddam Hussein's regime is clearly doomed."

Still, the vice president warned, the war is not over. Regime forces still control northern Iraq, in Mosul, Kirkuk and Tikrit. Coalition forces continue operations throughout Iraq, securing cities, protecting supply lines and delivering humanitarian aid.

"Since the war," he explained, "our forces have conducted themselves with all of the skill and integrity that President Bush and the American people expected of them." The vice president also praised the Defense Department's war plan, noting that the war's conclusion "will mark one of the most extraordinary military campaigns ever conducted."

"It's proceeded according to a carefully drawn plan with fixed objectives and flexibility in meeting them," he said. "In the early days of the war, the plan was criticized by some retired military officers embedded in TV studios, but with every day and every advance by our coalition forces, the wisdom of that plan becomes more apparent.

The Department of Defense's top leadership and its subordinates have done "a superb job," he said. He named Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld; Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander U.S. Central Command; and Air Force Gen. Richard Myers and Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, respectively.

"It's been a most impressive performance, and coming on the heels of the Afghanistan operation last year, it's proof positive of the success of our efforts to transform our military to meet the challenges of the 21st century."

Vice President Cheney also paid tribute to those who've lost their lives on the field of battle.

"We're thinking of these families now with respect and gratitude," he said. "This nation will always honor the sacrifices made in our defense."

He also honored NBC's David Bloom and *Washington Post* columnist Michael Kelly and the other journalists who have died or been killed during the war. He said embedding 600 American journalists in coalition military units across Iraq has made for some outstanding reporting and led to greater respect all around.

"For their part, the troops have come to know reporters who are willing to accept the hardships and dangers of war in order to get the story right," he said. "And journalists have come to know our military, not just for the power of its weapons, but by the character of the men and women who serve."